



<http://goo.gl/L1KpPb>

# ESSA

## What does this mean for arts education?

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law. This piece of legislation continues the focus on equity and access in education across the nation since the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act was enacted. At that time, this law provided the largest federal aid to K-12 schooling. Here is a brief overview of this bipartisan work. Additional details and links to more in-depth analysis from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and arts organizations is offered below.

After 51 years since the implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the idea of equity and access to quality educational resources and programming continues to be a part of our conversations. The resulting federal programs in each of the Title areas provide varying types of support to foster opportunities for all. Today's retooling of the initial idea for access and equity now seen in the Every Student Succeeds Act 2015, offers opportunities for more content areas then

initially mentioned in past legislation, No Child Left Behind Act, 2001. There is a common thread for each of these laws, accountability. ESSA continues the pursuit of offering all students a quality education through a method of holding schools accountable for greater access and

equity. The new law defines a well rounded education for students which includes the arts and offers potential opportunities which had not been previously available in past legislation. Much of the new law will

go into effect in the 2017-18 school year. For a look at ESSA visit the [WI Department of Public Instruction page](#).

Thank you for your patience as the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction reviews the law and it's application to all content areas, including the arts.

-Julie

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"With this bill, we reaffirm that ,  
fundamentally American ideal - that  
every child, regardless of race, income,  
background, the zip code where they  
live, deserves the chance to make of  
their lives what they will."  
— President Barack Obama

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Visit these links of organizations who offer analysis of Every Student Succeeds Act's implications for arts education. This act was signed into law in December 2015 by President Obama and is based on bipartisan work.



[WI Department of Public Instruction](#) - ESSA



[Educational Theatre Association](#) - ESSA



[National Dance Educators Organization—ESSA](#)



[National Association for Music Educators](#) - ESSA



[National Art Educators Association](#) - ESSA



[U.S. Department of Education](#) - ESSA  
[U. S. Department of Education Title II A](#)

**“WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION** - The term ‘well-rounded education’ means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.” SOURCE: [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) page 807



[Americans for the Arts](#) - ESSA